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PRESS RELEASE

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Man Indicted on Murder Charges in Fiery Assault That Led to Death of Manager of Good Guys Club - Defendant Now Serving Prison Term on Related Charges -

WASHINGTON - Vasile Graure, 40, was indicted by a grand jury today on charges of first degree murder while armed with aggravating circumstances in connection with an arson at a Northwest Washington club that led to a man's death, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

If convicted, Graure faces a maximum sentence of life in prison with no possibility of release. He is to appear January 10, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for arraignment in the case.

The fire took place November 3, 2007, at the Good Guys Club, 2311 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. The victim, Vladimir Djordjevic, 28, died May 17, 2010. Graure, of Phoenix, Ariz., was visiting the District of Columbia at the time of the crime.

Graure is now serving a prison sentence following his conviction on November 20, 2008 of numerous other charges in this case. That day, a D.C. Superior Court jury found him guilty of various non-murder offenses, including assault with intent to kill while armed (gasoline and a lighter); assault with a dangerous weapon; aggravated assault while armed (gasoline and a lighter); mayhem while armed; arson; burglary, and felony destruction of property.

At the time of that trial, the primary burn victim in the assault, Mr. Djordjevic, was still being treated for the life-threatening burns to his body.

The government's evidence, presented at the earlier trial, established that shortly before 8 p.m. on November 3, 2007, Graure was asked to leave the Good Guys club for taking a photograph of one of the establishment's dancers in violation of club rules. Graure then walked up Wisconsin Avenue to a gas station where he purchased a two-gallon gas container, a lighter and gasoline before returning to the club. Upon his return, Graure was confronted by Mr. Djordjevic, the manager at the club, who struggled with Graure in an effort to get the gas can.

Despite Mr. Djordjevic's efforts, Graure succeeded in pouring gasoline all over the front of the club and Mr. Djordjevic before lighting the gasoline on fire. The fire quickly spread through the club and engulfed Mr. Djordjevic in flames. Before being able to douse the flames, Mr. Djordjevic suffered second- and third-degree burns to 90% of his body.

According to the government's evidence, Graure fled the scene and attempted to evade police by retreating to a Day's Inn hotel in Alexandria, Virginia, where he self-treated his own serious burn injuries received in the fire. Despite the defendant's efforts, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) detectives ultimately identified him as the assailant through bank records and arranged for his apprehension in Virginia.

In March, 2009, the Honorable Judge Robert I. Richter sentenced Graure to consecutive sentences totaling 30 years and 8 months for the assaults with intent to kill while armed on Mr. Djordjevic and others, as well as the related counts.

After continuous hospitalization and intensive medical treatment, Mr. Djordjevic ultimately succumbed to complications emanating from the burn injuries he sustained in the fire. Graure, who was serving his sentence at the time, was subsequently arrested for murder, and the indictment returned by the Grand Jury today followed.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

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